

Research Design Service South West

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**THANK
YOU**

The background: RDSUs

- Established by (some) regional R&D Offices 10-14 years ago
- Variations between (and within) regions
- In the South West:
 - Strategy set locally within broad contract
 - Variable amounts of additional resource, grant development, teaching, mentoring, EBP, doing research, ...

Best Research for Best Health

A new national health research strategy



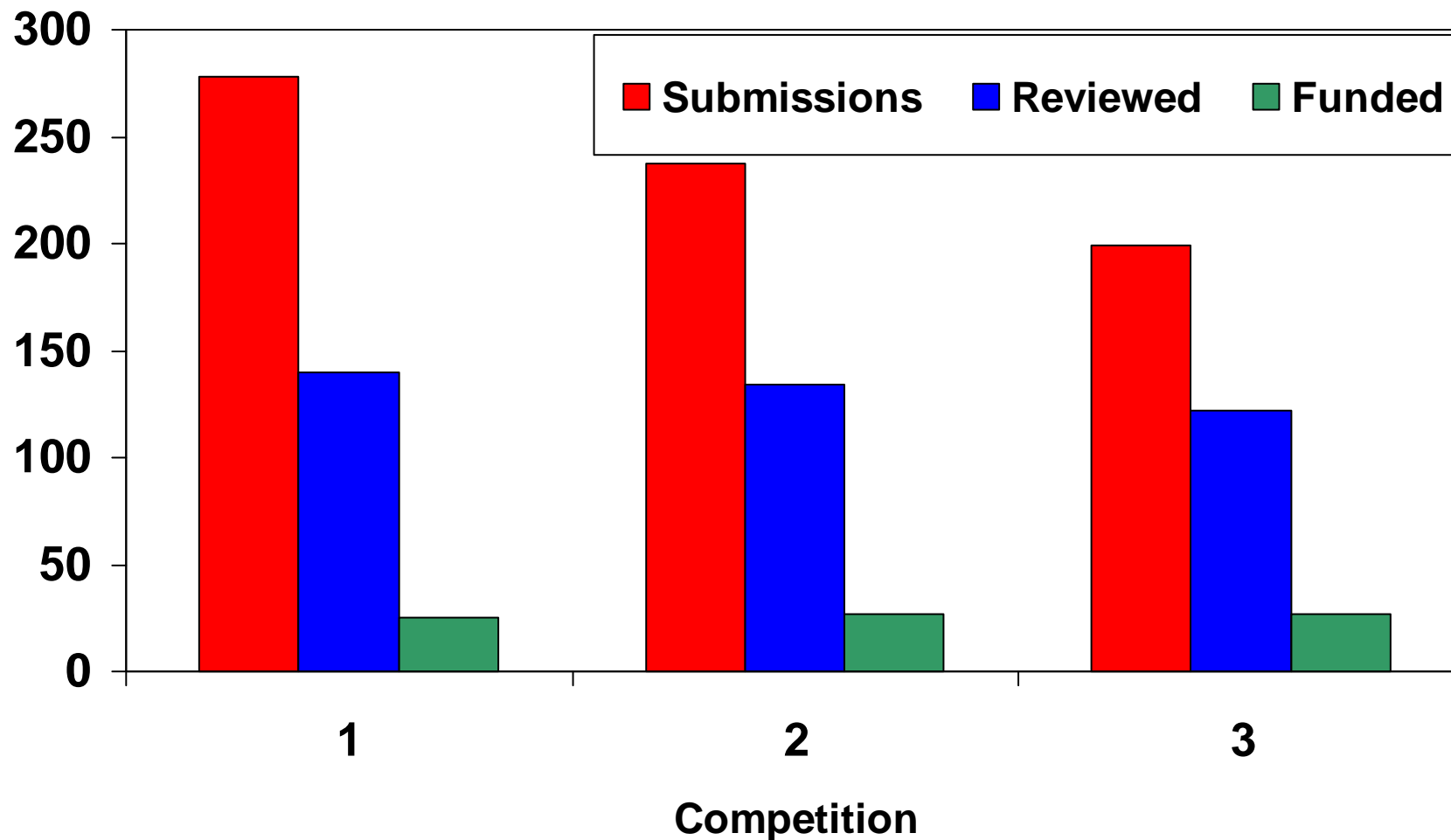
RDSUs reviewed:

- Variations and inconsistencies
- Not full national coverage
- “Mission drift”
- Contracts not being renewed

Research for Patient Benefit

- Responsive scheme, funding research:
 - arising from daily practice in the NHS
 - developed between NHS and other partners
 - with potential for influencing practice
- Annual budget rising to £25m p.a.
- 3 funding competitions per year
- Regional funding panels

RfPB – the first year



RfPB experiences

- Applications out of scope
- No case made for patient benefit
- Inadequate research design
- Incoherent methodology
- Feasibility not convincing
- Gaps within the research team
- Inadequate attention to PPI



- Faculty
- Research
- Systems
- Infrastructure**
 - Clinical Research Network
 - Research Centres
 - Biomedical Research Units
 - Experimental Medicine
 - Technology Platforms
 - Research Design Services
 - CLAHRCs
 - FSF

- Patient & Public Awareness**
- Working with Industry**
- About us
 - [NIHR Progress Report 2006-08](#)
 - [Implementation Plans](#)
 - [Funding Allocations](#)
 - [About OSCHR](#)
 - [2007 CSR](#)

News



Research Design Services

The NIHR is establishing a new network of Research Design Services (RDS) to help researchers develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.

The new service will start on 1 October 2008 and will supersede the current Research and Development Support Units (RDSUs) except in the East Midlands and North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) areas where current RDSU services will continue to 31 March 2010. These RDSUs will now also provide a research design service so that consistent support is given to the health and social care research community nationally.

Initially, we will be aiming to let eight contracts for NIHR Research Design Services in the following SHA regions:

- East of England
- London
- North East
- South Central

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BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 5.9

RESEARCH DESIGN SERVICES

Best Research for Best Health set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on one of the key components of that strategy: RESEARCH DESIGN SERVICES. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

Gateway Reference: 6050
Version: 2
Issue date: July 2008

Planned revision & re-issue date: January 2009

Aim

- To offer fit for purpose advice and support on research design and methodology to researchers making funding applications and doing research within the new health research system as set out in *Best Research for Best Health*.
- To increase the number and proportion of high quality applications for funding for applied people and patient focussed health and social care research.

Purpose

- To help researchers develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.
- To provide consistent national coverage, with a focus on NHS-based researchers applying to the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme.
- To offer access to a range of expertise in research design, including advice on research synthesis, study design and methodology (quantitative and qualitative), statistics, and economics, and to refer to other sources of expert advice on the applied health and social care research system.

AIM:

“To offer fit for purpose advice and support on research design and methodology to researchers making funding applications...”

“To increase the number and proportion of high quality applications for funding ...”

RDS: Purpose

- To help researchers develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health and social care research
- To provide consistent national coverage, with a focus on NHS-based researchers applying to the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme
- To offer access to a range of expertise in research design and to refer to other sources of expert advice on the applied health and social care research system

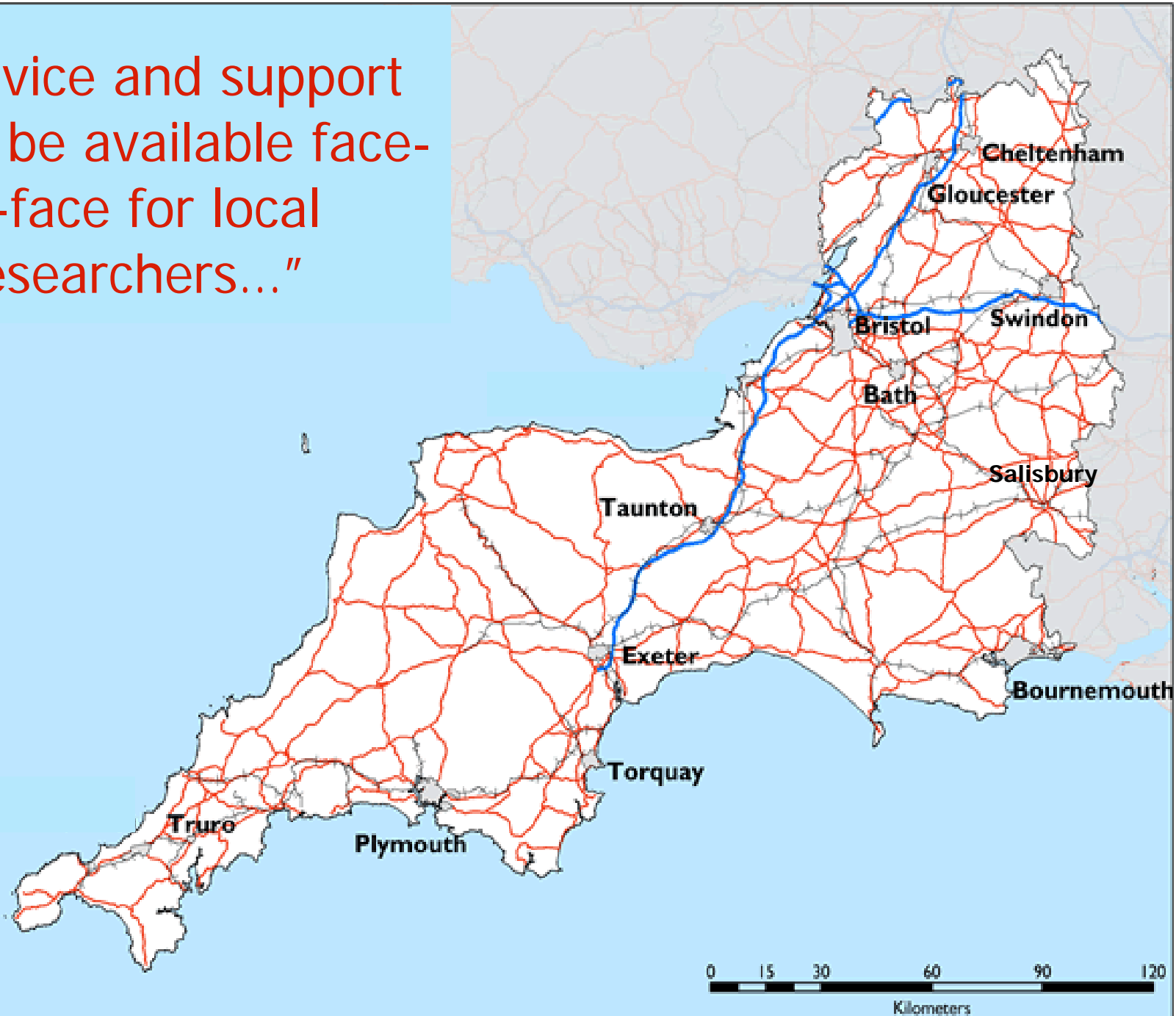
Competitive tendering

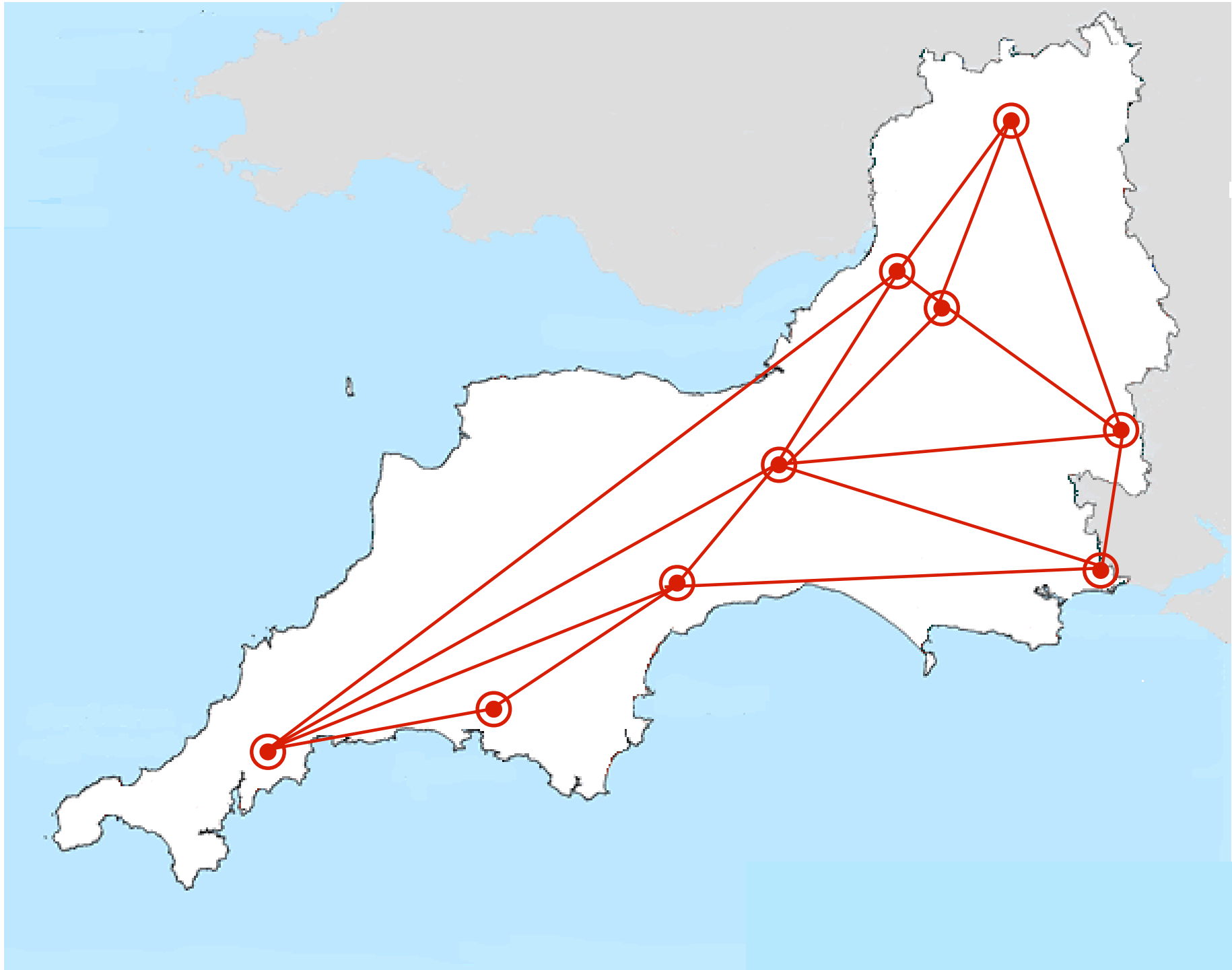
- Invitation: October 2007
- One contract per SHA
- Up to £1m per year, for 5 years
- Deadline 14 January 2008
- Presentations to funding panel Feb 2008
- Results March 2008 ... August 2008
- Contracts commence 1 October 2008

The SW application

- Developed collaboratively
- Guiding principles
 - Geographical coverage
 - Perceived need
 - Local environment: organisational support
 - Retention of skills and relationships
- RD&E Foundation Trust lead organisation
- Based largely on existing RDSU staff
- Letters of support from 45 organisations

“... advice and support should be available face-to-face for local researchers...”





NIHR RDS-SW: the structure

- Staff based in 9 “sites” – and more than 9 organisations
- Working together in a unified service
- Full range of methodological skills to support applied health research
- Co-ordinating centre in Taunton

Helping to build successful grant applications

- “Self care” – information
- “RDS Direct” – telephone/email queries
- “Primary care” – face-to-face discussions
- “Secondary care” – involving other RDS staff
- “Tertiary care” – other specialist input
- “Follow-up care” – fixable faults and troubleshooting

We can help...

- Advising and supporting all aspects of preparing grant applications
 - with emphasis on NHS researchers applying to RfPB
- Funding for patients and carers involved in research teams supported by the RDS
- Some training

Get in touch

- Contact your “local” office
- Contact the Co-ordinating Centre
 - 01823 342792
 - rds-sw@tst.nhs.uk
- Visit the website (soon!)
 - www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk